

Infinitive and *-ing* form II: infinitives with an object

A Starting activities

1 We advised the Prime Minister to reduce taxes

Verb + object + infinitive

- 1 Work in pairs. Write down the names of five people. They can be famous people, or friends that you both know, or people in the class. Write five sentences using some of the verbs below with the people on your list as objects. Use the past simple tense. Example: *We advised the Prime Minister to reduce taxes.*

Each pair in the class should work with different verbs from the list so that all the verbs are used.

Verbs: *advise, allow, ask, encourage, expect, force, get, hate, help, invite, mean, need, order, permit, persuade, prefer, recommend, remind, teach, tell, want, warn, wish*

- 2 Work as a class. One person from each pair reads some of their sentences to the class. Write down any sentences that other people read out which include verbs that you haven't used.

2 Mini dialogues

Verb + question word + infinitive

- 1 Work in pairs or groups. Choose three sentences from the list of sentences. Make a mini dialogue by writing a sentence before and a sentence after each one. You can change or add words if you need to. Pairs should work with different sentences so that all the sentences are used. Example:

A: *Were all the jackets nice?*

B: *Yes, I didn't know which to choose.*

A: *So which one did you buy in the end?*

List of sentences

I didn't know which to choose.

I haven't decided whether to go or not.

Has she found out what to do?

I was wondering how to tell him.

Ask her who to invite.

Show us where to go, please.

- 2 Read your mini dialogues to the class.

3 Circus acts

Verb + object + infinitive without *to* OR + *-ing*

Work in pairs. Imagine you are outside a circus, trying to persuade people to come in. Write or say (or shout) sentences about the circus acts with verb + object + infinitive without *to* or + *-ing*. Use *hear, see* and *watch*, like this:

Come and see the fire eater perform.

You will see the fire burning.

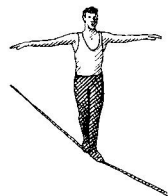
Use the pictures below to give you ideas for the circus acts.



fire eater



muscle man



tightrope walker



juggler



clown



acrobats

B Grammar guide

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- 1 **Verb + object + infinitive**
- They didn't want me to go.*
John begged her not to leave.
- These verbs can be followed by an object and an infinitive:
- | | | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| advise | encourage | hate | (would) like | permit | teach |
| allow | expect | help | mean (= intend) | persuade | tell |
| ask | force | intend | need | recommend | want |
| beg | get (= persuade) | invite | order | remind | warn |
- We can also use verb + object + infinitive to express purpose (the reason for something), answering the question 'What for?'.
I can't reach. I need a chair to stand on.
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- 2 **Verb + question word + infinitive**
- I didn't know which to choose.*
He remembered what to do.
- These verbs can be followed by a question word (e.g. *which, what, how*) or phrase (e.g. *how many*) and an infinitive: *ask, decide, discover, discuss, explain, find out, forget, know, learn, remember, see, show, tell, understand, wonder.*
- *What, which, whose, how many* and *how much* can be followed by a noun + infinitive.
We didn't know how many plates to buy.
- NOTE You cannot use this sentence pattern with the question word *why* but you can use *why* like this: *I don't know why I chose that one.*
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- 3 **Adjective + infinitive and noun + infinitive**
- We can use the infinitive after some adjectives (e.g. *pleased, angry, sad, upset*) and after *it + be + adjective*.
I'm pleased to meet you. It is good to be here.
- We can also use the infinitive after some nouns (e.g. *work, job*, and other things that we have to do).
I've got some work to do. I've got an essay to write by tomorrow.
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- 4 **Verb + object + infinitive without to**
- The verbs *let* and *make* can be followed by an object + the infinitive without *to*.
Let him have some sweets after dinner.
Make him go to bed at nine, or he'll be tired tomorrow.
- Some verbs can be followed by an object and an infinitive without *to* OR by an *-ing* form.
I saw him switch on the light. OR *I saw him switching on the light.*
- Some useful verbs with this sentence pattern are: *feel, hear, listen to, look at, notice, see, watch.*
- For longer actions, the infinitive is used when the action is complete and the *-ing* form is used when the action is still in progress.
I heard him come home. (action complete)
I heard him coming home. (action in progress)
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- 5 **Preposition + -ing form**
- Prepositions (e.g. *to, by, of, for*) are followed by the *-ing* form, not by an infinitive.
I look forward to seeing you next week.
Jim avoided the crowds by going the long way round.
Before becoming a dentist he worked for a computer firm.

C Activities

1 Mini sagas

Adjective + infinitive, noun + infinitive, preposition + *-ing* form

- 1 Work in pairs or groups. A mini saga is a story that is exactly fifty words long, not counting the title. Write a mini saga which includes one of these pairs of sentences.
 - a There is a lot of work to do.
I have a package to deliver tonight.
 - b It was kind of Joanna to warn me.
She was upset to hear the news.
 - c After running to the bus-stop she was exhausted.
By telling him that she probably saved his life.
- 2 Look at the mini sagas written by other pairs or groups in the class. Change them to add more adjective + infinitive, noun + infinitive and preposition + infinitive sentences. Are there any mistakes in the mini sagas?

2 Dialogue pairs

Verb + infinitive or *-ing* form

- 1 Work in pairs or groups. Put the verbs in the lists below into pairs and make a dialogue (a sentence and a reply) from each pair. Your two sentences must each have an infinitive (with object), or an *-ing* form.
Example (a dialogue with *ask* and *tell*):
A: *Did he ask you to go to the disco with him?*
B: *Yes. But I told him to go with his girlfriend.*
Verb + object + infinitive: *advise, allow, ask, help, invite, persuade, prefer, recommend, tell, want*
Verb + *-ing* form: *dislike, give up, keep, like, put off (= delay), stop, suggest*
- 2 Either form new pairs or join pairs to make groups of four. Use as many of your dialogue pairs as you can to make a continuous dialogue. You can change a dialogue pair in any way you wish, but you must not separate the two sentences of the dialogue pair.

- 3 Read or act out your dialogue to the rest of the class. Write down any new sentences with infinitive or *-ing* that you hear.

3 Playing games

-ing form and infinitive

- 1 Work on your own. Make eight 'cards' by folding two pieces of paper in half and then in half again and tearing along the folds. On each 'card' write one of the categories from the list below.

Categories

- 1 verb + *-ing*
 - 2 verb + infinitive
 - 3 verb + *-ing* or infinitive
 - 4 verb + object + infinitive
 - 5 noun + infinitive
 - 6 adjective + infinitive
 - 7 preposition + *-ing*
- 2 Work in pairs or groups. One person plays one of his or her eight 'cards' and someone else says a sentence using the category on that 'card'.
Example: verb + *-ing*
John dislikes doing his homework.
You get one point for a correct sentence and the winner is the one with the most points. If you are not sure whether a sentence is correct or not, write it down.
 - 3 Work as a class. Now read out any sentences which you are not sure are correct. Can you say if other people's sentences are correct or not? Write down any correct sentences that are new to you.

D Accuracy practice

1 Put in the infinitive or the *-ing* form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 I was very happy _____ (see) you there.
- 2 Jenny succeeds by _____ (work) harder than anybody else.
- 3 The Tomlinson family were glad _____ (be) back in Australia.
- 4 The tourists were frightened of _____ (lose) their way in London.
- 5 She was sad _____ (see) such disappointing exam results.
- 6 I want someone _____ (share) a flat with me.

2 Write sentences.

- 1 Henry's girlfriend/persuade/him/see a doctor yesterday.
- 2 Richard's friends/make/him see that horror film, even though he didn't want to.
- 3 Juliette's parents/not let/her/stay up later than ten o'clock when she was twelve.
- 4 I/listen to/the birds/sing when you came in this morning.
- 5 I/see/Mr Wilson/paint/his house last week. That was before his accident/force/him/leave it half-painted.

3 Guy and his wife Cheryl have known Gillian since they were at school together. Here is part of a letter from Cheryl to Gillian. Put in the infinitive or the *-ing* form of the verbs in brackets.

Guy asked me ¹_____ (write) to you ages ago but I've been too busy. You know I was thinking of ²_____ (leave) my job? Well, just when I was finally going to leave, the company offered to send me on a Management Course, so I decided to stay after all. But Guy warned me ³_____ (not/accept) a place on the course unless they had a management job ⁴_____ (offer) me at the end of it. So I said to Mr Cowans (the boss), 'Don't expect me ⁵_____ (go on) this course unless . . .'

4 Here is the letter giving Cheryl information about the Management Course. Put in the infinitive or the *-ing* form of the verbs in brackets.

I am pleased ¹_____ (confirm) the offer of a place on the 'Management for the Future' course from April 10–14.

Mr Cowans has explained the course to you but may I remind you ²_____ (bring) your four recommendations for ³_____ (improve) your department with you. We will explain how ⁴_____ (use) your recommendations during the course.

Soap is provided at the Course Centre but we need you ⁵_____ (bring) your own towels. We ask all course participants not to delay handing in their room keys at the end of the course. After ⁶_____ (register) with the Course Supervisor at 5.30 p.m. on April 10 we would like you ⁷_____ (meet) the other participants in room 3B.